

# 2012 CASB Winter Legislative Conference

**February 16–17, 2012**

The Brown Palace Hotel  
Denver



**Colorado Association  
of School Boards**

# 2012 CASB Winter Legislative Conference



**E**ffective advocacy is an important part of every school leader's job, but you don't have to "occupy" the Capitol to be influential. This year's CASB Winter Legislative Conference will equip you with the tools you need to lobby all levels of government on behalf of your students. We'll discuss 2012 legislation, explore predictions for this year's election and answer key questions about school finance, teacher effectiveness and other hot education topics.

Here is a sample of the opportunities available at this year's conference:

- Lobato v. State of Colorado: What happens while we wait on the appeal?
- A view of the 2012 election landscape
- Updates on personnel evaluations and SB 191
- Keynote address from former Colorado Congressman David Skaggs
- Insights on third grade literacy legislation
- Dialogue with State Board members

## REGISTRATION FEE

\$225 per person.

Includes Thursday continental breakfast, lunch and breaks, and Friday breakfast. **Registration accepted online only at [www.casb.org](http://www.casb.org).**

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[www.casb.org](http://www.casb.org) • 303-832-1000 or 800-530-8430

## HOTEL INFORMATION

The 2012 CASB Winter Legislative Conference will be held at the historic Brown Palace Hotel in Downtown Denver. Rooms are available at the dramatically reduced rate of \$156 single/double. Rooms are also available at the Comfort Inn, adjacent to The Brown Palace, for \$107 single/double.

Make reservations for either hotel directly by calling 303-297-3111 or 800-321-2599 or make an online reservation at <http://tinyurl.com/86da8o3> for The Brown Palace and <http://tinyurl.com/76debc9> for the Comfort Inn. Be sure to state that you are attending the CASB Conference to receive the special rate. **Deadline for reservations is Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2012.**

## PARKING

Overnight parking is available at the Brown Palace for \$28 and the Comfort Inn for \$22. The daily rate for parking, if you are not staying at the hotel, is \$16. Self-parking is also available in the area close to the hotel.



The Brown Palace Hotel  
321 17th St.  
Denver, CO 80202

# Thursday, February 16

7:30–8:30 A.M. • **EARLY BIRD SESSIONS** (Choose one of three.)

Includes continental breakfast.

## **New Board Members: Celebrating Your First 100 Days**

Hosted by CASB leaders.

*You've spent your first 100 days as a school board member. You've learned a lot, and the spring brings more new challenges. Join this conversation to learn more about maximizing your first year of leadership.*

## **Rural School Districts: Challenges and Opportunities Ahead**

**TOM SIFERS**, BOARD PRESIDENT, **JULIE GEORGE**, DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, CASB; AND **PAULA STEPHENSON**, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RURAL CAUCUS

*Rural issues are important to CASB, so take this opportunity to share your ideas on pending legislation and the issues you are facing. Bring concrete examples CASB can use with lawmakers back at the Capitol.*

## **Board Presidents: Advancing our Leadership Excellence**

**RANDY BLACK**, DIRECTOR OF MEMBER RELATIONS, CASB  
*Join this peer-to-peer conversation focused on the keys to being a great president in shifting, uncertain times. Catch the latest on the "new advocacy" discussions started in the presidents' gathering at the Convention. You'll leave with ideas and opportunities for follow-up.*

9–10:30 A.M. • **KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**



### **Education In and For a Democracy** **DAVID SKAGGS**, FORMER COLORADO CONGRESSMAN

If Federalist No. 10 describes the foundational theory of our democracy, philosopher John Dewey's quote "democracy has to be born anew every generation, and education is its midwife," explains how we practice it. In his keynote address, former Colorado Congressman David

Skaggs will explore these ideas and discuss ways we can harness the power of education to foster effective democracy now and in the future. Skaggs will continue the discussion by leading a panel following his remarks.

*Former Congressman David Skaggs is senior strategic advisor and independent consultant for Denver law firm McKenna Long & Aldridge. He focuses on the areas of education, science and technology, national security, environment and public private partnerships.*

*Prior to joining MLA, Mr. Skaggs was executive director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education and of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education. He was also Gov. Bill Ritter's appointee to chair the Colorado Higher Education Competitive Research Authority. Mr. Skaggs served 12 years in Congress representing Colorado's 2nd Congressional District.*

10:45 A.M.–NOON • **BREAKOUT SESSIONS** (Choose one of four.)

### **1. School Discipline, Bullying and Harassment**

**MICHELLE MURPHY**, DIRECTOR OF MEMBER LEGAL RESOURCES, CASB  
*Discipline, bullying and harassment are hot topics as state and federal lawmakers search for ways to ensure that students are safe at school. This session will provide important information about pending school discipline legislation, recent changes to Colorado's bullying prevention law and federal guidance regarding appropriate responses to bullying and harassment. Attendees will learn important strategies for keeping students safe and limiting district liability.*

### **2. Conversation with the State Board of Education**

*Hear from State Board members as they offer a glimpse into their goals and legislative priorities for the coming year.*

### **3. Read All About It: Insights on 2012 Literacy Legislation**

**CHRISTINE SCANLAN**, DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
*Third grade literacy is an essential indicator of student success. Recent studies show that a child's ability to read by third grade can even predict his or her potential to graduate from high school. Gov. John Hickenlooper has made third grade literacy a key issue of his administration. This session will detail the administration's 2011 Literacy Matters Tour, discuss current literacy legislation and explore how other states have addressed this issue.*

### **4. CASB's Legislative Network: Using the Network for Effective Grassroots Lobbying**

**JULIE GEORGE**, DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, CASB; AND **RICK HAMMANS**, CASB DIRECTOR AND BOARD MEMBER, ST. VRAIN VALLEY RE-1J

*Contact from local constituents can have an immense impact on state legislators and the State Board of Education, and members of CASB's Legislative Network are uniquely qualified to impact state legislation and rules at the local level. Attend this session to learn how to use CASB's Legislative Updates for effective grassroots lobbying and to learn easy steps to have your voice heard at the state level.*

NOON–1:30 P.M. • **LEADER AND LEGISLATOR LUNCHEON**



### **LT. GOV. JOE GARCIA**

**L**t. Gov. Joe Garcia will join us for this luncheon and conversation with state legislators. Hear about Garcia's priorities for education and ideas about the future of education in Colorado. The luncheon will give you an opportunity to dine and meet face-to-face with your area legislators.

2–3:15 P.M. • **BREAKOUT SESSIONS** (Choose one of four.)

**1. CASB Federal Relations Network**

**JULIE GEORGE**, DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, CASB; AND MEMBERS OF CASB'S FRN COMMITTEE

*Back from the NSBA Conference in Washington, D.C., CASB's Federal Relations Network (FRN) will brief participants on the top education issues in Washington, the message they delivered to Colorado's Congressional Delegation and what the year ahead has in store.*

**2. Implementation of SB 191: What Board Members Need to Know**

**MICHELLE MURPHY**, DIRECTOR OF MEMBER LEGAL RESOURCES, CASB; AND **KATY ANTHES**, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS, CDE

*This session will provide an overview of the new personnel evaluation systems required by SB 191. Attendees will obtain an understanding of the rules recently adopted by the State Board, the timeline for implementation of those rules and the pilot program currently being implemented by CDE. The discussion will also address the complex issues related to measuring student growth.*

**3. Using Data for Governance**

**JOHN HEFTY**, CASB CONSULTANT AND FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL EXECUTIVES

*CASB recently launched a training series aimed at helping boards use student performance data in their governance work. Attend this session to learn more about the project, as well as hear from superintendents how their districts are using data for school board governance.*

**4. Lobato: What It Says and What's Next?**

**KATHLEEN SULLIVAN**, ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL PROGRAMS, CASB

*Whether or not you've had a chance to read the 183-page Lobato ruling, join CASB's legal team for a discussion of the nuts and bolts of the decision, insights into the decision's implications for the future and updates as to the latest happenings in the case.*

3:30–5:30 P.M. • **CLOSING GENERAL SESSION AND LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING**

**2012–2013 Election Landscape**

**RICK REITER**, PRINCIPAL, REITER & ASSOCIATES

Most tax increase measures—including those for education—failed miserably in 2011. Learn what that could mean if you're considering an election in 2012. Considered one of Colorado's leading research analysts on voting history and patterns related to school finance, mail ballot and absentee voting, Rick Reiter will use the data he gathered from cities, counties, special districts and others in 2011 to forecast Colorado's election landscape over the next two years.

**Legislative Briefing**

**DR. JANE URSCHEL**, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, **JULIE GEORGE**, DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, AND **MICHELLE MURPHY**, DIRECTOR OF MEMBER LEGAL RESOURCES, CASB

This briefing is essential! Attendees will discuss, in depth, upcoming bills and proposed amendments. Come learn who the key legislative players are this year and identify your critical roles as a school district leader.

5:30–7 P.M. • **PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION**

*Join CASB President Tom Sifers and your colleagues to chat about issues in a relaxed atmosphere. Light hors d'oeuvres and cash bar.*

## Friday, February 17

7:30–8:30 A.M. • **BRIEFING BREAKFAST**

*Review talking points and potential action steps for priority legislative issues. Collaborate with your colleagues on the most effective strategies for communicating district needs and concerns.*

8:30–10:30 A.M. • **DAY AT THE CAPITOL**

*Spend the morning at the Capitol and learn how the legislative process works. Visit the House or Senate floor at the invitation of your legislator. This is our chance to impress upon the legislature that school board members care! Contact your legislator ahead of time so they know you plan to be there and want to observe from the floor.*

9 A.M. • **TOUR OF THE CAPITOL**

*Is this your first visit to the Capitol? If so, don't miss an official tour of the Capitol. The gold dome is closed for construction, but we'll see the rest of the beautiful building including Mr. Brown's Attic.*

10:30 A.M.–NOON • **OLD SUPREME COURT CHAMBERS**

*Reconvene in the comfortable Old Supreme Court Chambers in the State Capitol to hear from legislators as they talk about their recent initiatives and how they may affect your school districts and communities.*

**TAKE YOUR LEGISLATOR TO LUNCH**

*CASB encourages you to develop a crucial personal relationship by inviting your legislator to lunch. Talk about your school district's successes, needs and concerns at your favorite Capitol Hill restaurant. Schedule a lunch meeting with your legislator any time after noon Friday.*

School officials who are not registered lobbyists are allowed to take lawmakers to lunch. The amount spent on lunch will have to be disclosed by the legislator as a gift. Gifts from any one individual or school district to a legislator cannot exceed \$50 in any year.